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**U.S. Representative**

***John Spratt***

South Carolina ■ 5th District

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## **News Release**

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October 25, 2000, For Immediate Release

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### **Spratt Votes to Renew, Strengthen Older Americans Act**

**WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) voted today to renew and strengthen the Older Americans Act.**

“This bill provides a safety net for older Americans,” said Spratt. “It extends a helping hand to those who need help the most — help with employment, food, and medicine. I was pleased to support this bill and vote for it.”

The bill, approved today by the House, includes the following authorizations:

**Senior Community Service Employment** -- \$449 million in FY 2000 for the Senior Community Service Employment program, which provides employment opportunities for low-income seniors aged 55 and over.

**Supportive Services and Senior Centers** -- \$306 million in FY 2000, and such sums as may be necessary in the following four years, for supportive services and senior centers.

**Congregate Meals** -- \$382 million in FY 2000, and such sums as may be necessary in fiscal years 2001 through 2004, for congregate meals.

**Home-Delivered Meals** -- \$114 million in FY 2000, and such sums as may be necessary in each of the following four years, for so-called "meals-on-wheels" programs.

**Supplemental Nutrition** -- \$150 million in FY 2000, and such sums as may be necessary in fiscal years 2001 through 2004, for a supplemental nutrition program for seniors administered by the Agriculture Department.

**Family Caregiver** -- \$125 million in FY 2000, and such sums as may be necessary in the following four years, for a new program to provide information and support to individuals who care for elderly family members. Funds for this program would be allocated to states based on the number of individuals aged 70 and over, and federal funds could provide no more than 75% of program costs.

**Ombudsman and Elder Abuse Prevention** -- \$12 million in FY 2000, and such sums as may be necessary in the following four years, for the ombudsman and elder abuse prevention program.

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